27. Chandigarh	1.08	0.11	—	—	—	—
28. Delhi	5.12	0.89	—	—	—	—
29. Daman & Diu	1.61	0.63	1.45	0.88	1.63	0.12
30. D. & N. Haveli	3.47	2.84	3.51	3.94	3.55	2.17
31. Lakshadweep	2.62	2.23	2.64	2.23	2.55	2.68
32. Pondicherry	5.87	4.89	3.37	5.20	3.32	3.81
All India	9291.04	8745.59	7354.35	8081.06	7537.95	7793.33

Conference of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj

638. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of State Ministers and Secretaries in charge of Panchayati Raj in States was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in New Delhi in the first week of July; and

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by this conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Conference of Ministers and Secretaries in-charge of Panchayats of States and Union Territories on the Constitution (73rd) Amendment Act, 1992.

Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi July 3, 1993

Recommendations

As a consequence of the Constitution 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 the legislations in the respective States have to be amended. Work on this process has already commenced in all the States. It was agreed that the new legislation will be placed before the next Session of the respective State Assemblies.

Further, steps would be taken to hold elections to panchayati raj institutions where they are due within six months after these legislative changes are brought into force.

It was agreed that the provisions relating to the constitution of District Planning Committees provided in the Constitution (74th) Amendment Act, 1992 would form a part of the new Panchayati Raj legislation of the States.

All the States agreed to constitute the State Election Commission as required under Article 243K (i) and (ii) of the Constitution (73rd) Amendment Act, 1992 as soon as the legislations are enacted in each state. It was decided that it may be examined as to how this could be done without high additional expenditure.

It was generally agreed that at least the elections to the Gram Panchayats be held on non-party basis with a view to preventing continued feuds at the village level and to also prevent impediments in development.

The Nyaya Panchayats were considered as a good mechanism for speedy and inexpensive resolution of local disputes. It was suggested that they may form a part of the proposed panchayati raj legislation in the states or may be legislated separately. A detailed examination may be made of the issues involved in setting up Nyaya Panchayats.

It was agreed that the cordinal principle for distribution of powers and functions at each level of panchayat must be that what can be done at a given level should be done at that level alone and not at a higher level. It was not enough to merely list outed series of subjects generously, but it was necessary to ensure that in respect of each subject the functions to be performed at each level of panchayat should be clearly identified and entrusted to them. Clear delegation of powers, provision of necessary manpower from existing Departments of Governments/Public Agencies and powers to poor resources and undertake integrated local development are required to make the entrustment of functions effective. While entrusting the functions and powers, convergence of services like those of education, health, women and child development, nutrition and family welfare may also be kept in view to maximise local participation and accrual of benefits to the local community.

In the panchayati raj institutions particularly at the district and intermediate level, the system of Committees/Standing Committees may be usefully included in the legislation so that specialised subjects may be discussed and dealt with in depth. Experts from outside panchayati raj institutions may be co-opted in these Committees.

The panchayats should be endowed with adequate resources to perform the functions entrusted to them. These funds should flow to them on a systematic and scientific basis, rather than on ad hoc basis. The State Level Finance Commissions comprising of eminent and experienced persons should be constituted to secure adequate devolution of funds to panchayats.

Ministry of Rural Development in Government of India was requested to arrange for regular interaction at least twice in a year amongst Ministers of panchayati raj from different states in order to share their experience and also to discuss the problems relating to revitalisation of panchayats.

A committee of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj on rotation basis will meet in different states and exchange experiences and views.

In order to promote wide dessimination of information and knowledge on the panchayat system and to spread awareness among the people, it was agreed to prepare publicity material in local languages and arrange for its widespread distribution. Further, holding of conventions/seminars/sammelans etc. to highlight the salient features of the panchayat system at the state, district and block levels was recommended.

It was necessary to impart adequate training to all functionaries involved in the panchayati raj system at every level. In order to do this, the existing panchayat raj training centres at different levels require to be revitalised and strengthened in their capabilities. A comprehensive calendar of training programmes to impart training to all important functionaries should be formulated from 1993-94 onwards.

The conference appreciated the efforts of NIRD in preparing a suggestive framework of the Panchayat Bill and circulating the same during the conference. It was agreed that this framework could be revised keeping in view the suggestions made at this conference and the comments that the State Governments may send in due course.

The conference recommended that the state may use the electoral rolls now used for the Parliament/Assembly elections, for the Panchayat elections also. This would reduce the cost of such elections considerably.

The conference felt that while the mandatory provisions of the constitutions (73rd Amendment) Act will be included in the State Legislations, the discretionary features of the Amendment provide sufficient flexibility to take into account the variability and diversity among the States.

Scarcity of Drinking Water in Rural Areas of the Country

639. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that both the National Drinking Water Mission and the Civic Authorities of Big/Small Metros have failed to meet the drinking water needs of Rural and Urban areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the worst affected areas by water shortage during the current year were Rajasthan, M.P. and Delhi;

(c) whether a recent survey has revealed that 30,000 villages are estimated to be without even a single source of drinking water;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(e) what is the total requirement of water in these villages/areas at present; and

(f) to what extent Government have taken/are taking steps to make available drinking water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The results of the survey are awaited. The reasons and the total requirement of water in the newly identified no source villages/habitations will be known after the final data from all States/Union Territories becomes available.

(f) Within the availability of Annual Plan outlays, the State Governments and the Central Government are taking all possible steps to